

SURVEY OF CURRENT EVENTS

CURRENT EVENTS UP TO SATURDAY.

There has been no report of any change in the Mexican situation during the past week, though there are rumors that it will not be very long before some of the volunteer troops will be withdrawn from the border.

The railroad strike situation is still occupying the attention of the public. The railroad presidents and managers are in daily conference, and so are the representatives of railroad brotherhoods, and President Wilson is conferring with both sides in an earnest effort to bring them together, and there seems to be some ground for hoping that he will soon be able to do so.

Matters of considerable interest are taking place in Europe. The British and French are steadily though slowly advancing against the Germans, who are making a strenuous effort to hold them back.

The Russians are still carrying forward their great drive against the Austrians, but do not seem to be making much progress against the Germans further north.

Italy has landed a large force at Saloniki to unite with the ally force already there in their advance against Bulgaria and Austria.

A rather peculiar condition of affairs exists in Greece. The king is opposed to going into the war, but the troops stationed along the northern border do not seem to sympathize with him in this matter, and when the Bulgarians made an attempt to enter Greece, the Grecian army met them with severe fighting. The general impression is that this will commit Greece to uniting with the Allies in the war. Roumania remains unsettled as to what it will do. It has an army of 800,000 men in the field, and the general impression is that she will join the Allies in a very short time.

Russia has gathered a large force on the northern Roumanian border ready for whatever may occur. If Roumania joins Germany in the fight, the Russians will be ready to attack her from the north. If she joins the Allies, Russia will be ready to march her force through that country against the Bulgarians on the south.

There have been only slight changes in conditions in Turkey, but the Russians are there making some headway.

• • •

The German commercial submarine, Deutschland, which made the remarkable trip across the Atlantic to the United States some weeks ago, has succeeded in making the return trip safely, and has reached Germany. The report carried back by her commander of his treatment in this country has made a very favorable impression upon Germany as to the attitude of the United States. So far as this country is concerned it will be fortunate if a number of other vessels could make the same trip. It is reported that the second of these submarines which started to this country was captured by the English in a submarine net in the English Channel. This report, however, has not been definitely confirmed.

POSSIBLE PEACE CONDITIONS ARE STATED BY GERMANS.

A proclamation containing views on the peace conditions which might be imposed by Germany is published to-day by "The Independent Committee for a German Peace," an organiza-

tion formed some time ago by those considered to be the extreme war advocates in Germany.

The proclamation asserts that, despite the fact that the Germans and their allies are holding three kingdoms in their hands, the entente still talks of the destruction of the German empire and entente statesmen continue to indulge in a flood of abuse and lies about Germany, while themselves violating every principle of international law, forcing neutrals to enter the war against their better judgment and endeavoring to force into submission through hunger millions whom their swords could not vanquish.

"Our enemies will not succeed," continues the proclamation. "One thing they have accomplished is to force upon us the realization that England is our special and most dangerous enemy."

"England causes our enemies to stick together. England leads them. Upon England they depend and will depend more after the war. On the wreckage of our empire, England hopes to unfurl the banner of Anglo-Saxon world dominion."

To Retain Captured Land.

The document asserts that Russian territory from the Baltic to Volhynia must in the future be included in the German sphere, to serve as a bulwark against the Russian tendency to annihilate Germany.

France's revenge ideas must constantly be kept in mind, so that in the west also changes would be necessary.

Belgium in the future, adds the proclamation, either will be a German or an English bulwark, so "real guarantees" here also are needed.

The document then cites the expression of Dr. Peter Spahn, leader of the Catholic center party in the reichstag, that "Belgium must lie in German hands militarily, economically and politically."

The proclamation concludes with the assertion: "England's plan threatens us with political and economical helotry. It aims at our life as a people and as a state. It aims at our culture and institutions. Energy must be applied, regardless of consequences, to force peace upon this enemy. Let it not come true that, as England says, we will win all the battles but England will win the war. With von Hindenburg, let us say it is not only a question of sticking it out but of winning."

WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF CRUDE PETROLEUM IS RECORD-BREAKER.

The world's production of crude petroleum in 1915—426,892,673 barrels—was the greatest in the history of the industry. Figures of the geological survey to-day show that the output was greater by 28,194,307 barrels than the previous record in 1914.

The bulk of the increase in output in 1915 came from the United States and Mexico, though Russia, Argentine and Japan recorded significant gains.

The United States lead in production with 281,104,104 barrels; Russia came second, with 68,548,062 barrels, and Mexico, third, with 32,910,508 barrels.

"PREPAREDNESS" AGAINST ARMY WORM IS URGED.

Warning to watch for the army worm has been issued by the Department of Agriculture to people in the Atlantic States. An unusual abundance of the moth of the true army worm in Maryland, Virginia and the

District of Columbia indicated the possibility of an impending outbreak of this destructive pest. The moths, the entomologists of the department report, were laying their eggs during the first week of July, and as it takes from three or four weeks for the caterpillars to mature, their presence should begin to be quite apparent this month.

Farmers should be on the alert, the department says, to discover this pest in its younger stages, before it has reached a large size and has committed irreparable damage to growing crops, especially grasses and grains.

The Pennsylvania railroad's announcement "that during the past two and a half years 433,952,000 passengers were carried on its lines without the loss of a passenger's life in a train accident does not mean that there have been no passenger-train accidents and no injuries to passengers." But it does mean a vast deal in vindication of steel coaches and the rule of "safety first."

MILLIONS!

It is said that over a million persons are dependent in this country on the automobile business for a living. Everyone of these is interested in the continued prosperity of the automobile business. But according to the statement of Chairman Hurley, of the Federal Trade Commission, a Democrat and a supporter of President Wilson, there is danger ahead.

Mr. Hurley says he knows of a case where the makers of electric vehicles in this country wished to combine and form a central agency in Paris so as to reduce overhead expenses and thus be able to sell their cars more cheaply in competition with foreign cars. They were all ready to make the combination when they were informed that it would be in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law and they were compelled to stop and let the foreigners have all the business.

Mr. Hurley believes that the Sherman law should be amended so as to permit American manufacturers to combine to secure foreign markets. This is a step in the right direction, but why not go farther? After the declaration of peace how shall the great industries of this country be protected unless they have the right to combine as they do in foreign countries so as to decrease their cost and increase their efficiency?

What do the 6,000,000 dependent on the iron and steel industry in this country think about the peril to that industry? President Hurley says: "What we must have now are the big guns to get the trade. As things are now we arm our manufacturers with two-inch guns with which to fight the 17-inch guns of the manufacturers of the other nations. Their manufacturers combine in the foreign markets while ours have to go it alone. Our individual manufacturers face these combinations, nearly always backed by their governments, and they are not strong enough to win in the trade battle. Knowing what I do about our foreign trade I wonder that we have been able to get any of the world's business."

This is a remarkable statement. It is of vital interest to every workman in every American factory. We commend its careful consideration to the busters and smashers of both political parties who during the past decade have been trying to drive our captains

of industry out of business to the injury of capital and still more serious injury to the working masses.

The tide is turning. The people are no longer deceived by selfish demagogues, who have led the busters and smashers of big business. The voters are preparing to give short shrift to those who have misled and betrayed them.—John A. Schleicher, in Leslie's.

EUROPE'S MOUNTING WAR DEBTS.

Much is being said and written these days, in a general way, of how war debts are piling up in the belligerent countries of Europe, but it is very doubtful if the average person has any very definite idea of the proportions to which the burdens have grown. The New York World has collected and published figures on the subject which are certainly interesting and will no doubt prove more or less illuminating to the majority of those who read them.

At the outbreak of hostilities in 1914 Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia, with a combined population of 408,500,000, had an aggregate debt of \$26,190,000,000 or \$64 per capita. During the two years of conflict these six nations have contracted debts, for war purposes exclusively, which aggregate approximately \$43,000,000,000. This means that the indebtedness of the six, taken as a whole, has increased nearly two hundred per cent. and now stands at about \$167 per capita, the figures being, of course, exclusive of local public debts.

Taking the countries as separate entities, it is shown that Germany, which entered the conflict with a per capita debt of \$75, has already created a purely war debt of \$200 per capita on the basis of the ante-bellum population. France, with a per capita debt of \$160 before the outbreak of hostilities, has added a per capita war debt of nearly \$180. Great Britain, which started the war with a per capita debt of \$80, has piled up a war debt of nearly \$300 per capita, though a part of the latter has been incurred as the result of financial assistance rendered her allies.

And the end is not yet. As the war goes on, these already unprecedented mountains of debt will continue to mount higher and higher. The day of reckoning will certainly come with the restoration of peace, if not sooner for some of them, and certainly the nations that have escaped the debts as well as the ravages of the pending war have nothing to fear from commercial competition carried on under conditions such as will confront the European countries.—Virginian-Pilot.

Peace breeds peace; no one can come into the presence of a trusting man without catching some of his calmness.

Evans Art Pianos and Players Factory to You

\$125

and up can be saved by my plan of selling direct from my factory to you. I can save you from \$125 to \$250 on an Evans Artist Model Piano or Player.

Freight Paid The easiest kind of terms, weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly payments to suit your convenience. All middlemen, jobbers, dealers and agents profits cut out. These are some of the reasons why I can sell the Evans Artist Model Pianos for such little money. Let me send you the other reasons.

30 DAYS FREE TRIAL If you are not entirely satisfied, we will take it back without any cost to you—you are the sole judge to decide.

Music Lessons Without Cost We will give a two year course of piano instruction free. Ask about our insurance plan.

STORY & CLARK PIANO CO.
P. O. EVANS, Gen. Mgr., Dept. J-77 Chicago